(a) whether it is a fact that many countries in the world, including the US, have legislation which mandates Judges to make public disclosure of wealth; and

(b) if so, the reason for his Ministry shielding Judges and not making public disclosure of wealth by Judges mandatory?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive legislation on the issue of standard and accountability of Judges which will, *inter alia*, deal with the subject of declaration of assets and liability by Judges.

Functioning of NALSA

1921. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons benefited through legal aid services in the country, State-wise, during the last two years;

(c) the number of those belonging to SC, ST and women category; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to popularize NALSA among the people especially in the rural areas?.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is having its headquarters at New Delhi. The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA, Senior Judge of the Supreme Court of India (Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarun Chatterjee) is the Executive Chairman of NALSA. Under NALSA, 35 State Authorities are working in all States and Union Territories. The Chief Justice of the High Court is the Patron-in-Chief and senior most Judge of the High Court is the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authorities. There are 596 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) all over India under the Chairmanship of the District Judge. There are 2010 Taluk Legal Services Committees functioning in Taluks where the senior most Judicial Officer of the Taluk is the Chairman. Members of these Authorities and Committees are nominated by the appropriate Government. These Authorities and Committees provide free legal services to the persons mentioned in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 *i.e.* Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Caste, women, children, victims of trafficking and beggars, victims of mass-disasters, victims of ethnic violence, industrial workmen, persons in custody in jails, juvenile homes and psychiatric hospitals. Besides, persons whose annual income is below Rs.50,000/- also are entitled to free legal services. Apart from legal services, NALSA, State Authorities and Taluk Committees implement various projects as per the directions of NALSA and as per its National Plan of Action for spreading legal awareness and also for preventive and strategic legal aid.

Apart from that, as per the guidelines issued by NALSA, the State and District Authorities and Taluk Committees organize Lok Adalats for settlement of cases pending before the Court and also those disputes which have not been brought before the Court (pre-litigation matters).

A statement showing the number of persons including number of persons belonging to the categories of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and women, benefited through legal services in the country, State-wise during the last two years *i.e.* 2007 and 2008 is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) NALSA is implementing its legal services including legal awareness and is organizing Lok Adalats in the rural areas as a part of its objective of bringing justice to the door-steps of the people. In this connection, NALSA has envisaged a scheme for trained para-legal volunteers to act as intermediaries between the people living in remote villages and the various legal services institutions under NALSA.

Statement

Number of persons benefited including number of persons belonging to the categories of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women the Legal Aid Services in the country, State wise, during the last two years viz. 2007 and 2008

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total number of persons benefited	Number of persons belonging to		
			Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribe	Women
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5005	309	119	1283
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	114	94	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	32704	5090	4528	3685
4.	Bihar	6426	689	57	1062
5.	Chhattisgarh	8808	99	1053	861
6.	Goa	918	2	Nil	253
7.	Gujarat	14559	1686	1073	4386
8.	Haryana	7930	135	3	641
9.	Himachal Pradesh	660	48	24	372
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1555	12	6	1342
11.	Jharkhand	1123	82	149	146

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Karnataka	2402	315	104	997
13.	Kerala	13825	222	33	2542
14.	Madhya Pradesh	129801	25360	19837	4605
15.	Maharashtra	251268	3244	2771	7173
16.	Manipur	2304	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	148	48	86	Nil
18.	Mizoram	7888	69	5211	937
19.	Nagaland	143	67	68	7
20.	Orissa	5020	595	312	2578
21.	Punjab	7050	566	6	982
22.	Rajasthan	8858	1085	1440	1289
23.	Sikkim	841	13	35	200
24.	Tamil Nadu	239075	11668	1122	40803
25.	Tripura	1721	92	88	1060
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6749	1026	99	1531
27.	Uttarakhand	4389	898	670	398
28.	West Bengal	11625	1006	420	3743
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	U.T. Chandigarh	1176	7	3	235
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Delhi	21836	509	13	5442
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Puducherry	9002	1945	Nil	4182

Representation of women in judiciary

1922. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether empowering the SC, ST and women is high on Government's agenda;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has received any representation emphasizing the need to increase representation of women in judiciary especially in the Supreme Court;